

## Message Text

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63

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-04 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 ABF-01 DRC-01 /035 W  
----- 091357

P 091526Z JUN 74

FM USINT DAMASCUS

TO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 805

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 1121

BEIRUT FOR CURTISS

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: N/A

SUBJECT: SUPPORT EQUIPMENT FOR DAMASCUS ACTIVITIES

REF: OFFICIAL-INFORMAL CURTISS TO THOMPSON,  
R/17/74

1. AS USIA AWARE FROM REFERENCED LETTER  
AND FROM  
SUBSEQUENT COMMUNICATIONS BOTH FROM DAMASCUS AND BEIRUT,  
OUR ACTIVITIES IN DAMASCUS HAVE STEADILY GROWN DURING  
PAST MONTHS. THE SECRETARY'S VISIT OF OVER THREE WEEKS,  
THE PRESIDENT'S NOW SCHEDULED VISIT AND OUR BELIEF THAT  
SITUATION WILL CONTINUE TO IMPROVE ALL SPEAK FOR IMPROVING  
OUR CAPABILITY HERE. AS WE APPROACH THE END OF THE FISCAL  
YEAR, BELIEVE IT USEFUL TO OUTLINE HOW ACUTE OUR EQUIP-  
MENT NEEDS ARE.

2. THE FOLLOWING ARE SUPPORT ITEMS WE BELIEVE ESSENTIAL  
TO OUR CONTINUED ACTIVITIES IN DAMASCUS:

A. TWO 16 MM PROJECTORS, TWO LARGE SCREENS AND TWO  
STEPDOWN TRANSFORMERS: THE PROJECTORS NOW ON HAND ARE  
OVER EIGHT YEARS OLD AND RECEIVED VERY HEAVY WEAR DURING  
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OUR ABSENCE FROM SYRIA. IN THE PERIOD SINCE OUR RETURN

IN JANUARY THE PROJECTORS HAVE SPENT LARGE PERCENTAGE OF THEIR TIME BEING REPAIRED IN BEIRUT. IT IS, TO SAY THE LEAST, EMBARRASSING TO PLAN A PROGRAM AND HAVE BOTH PROJECTORS FAIL IN THE COURSE OF ONE EVENING. THE SCREEN WE HAVE INHERITED FROM THE ITALIANS HAS AN ENORMOUS RIP FOR WHICH WE HAVE NO EXPLANATION. WE HAVE NO STEP-DOWN TRANSFORMERS; AND, AS CITY AUTHORITIES CONTINUE TO CONVERT CITY FROM 110 TO 220, TRANSFORMERS WILL BECOME INCREASINGLY A NECESSITY.

B. SLIDE PROJECTOR: POST HAS NO SLIDE PROJECTOR AND THESE ARE USEFUL FOR PRESENTATIONS.

C. TWO MEDIUM/SHORTWAVE RADIO RECEIVERS: ONLY RADIO RECEIVER CURRENTLY AT USINT IS PHILLIPS MODEL PURCHASED SOMETIME IN MID-1950'S. ITS CONDITION HAS DETERIORATED TO SUCH AN EXTENT THAT ONLY STATION WE ABLE TO RECEIVE IS RADIO DAMASCUS WHICH SITS 400 METERS ABOVE THE USINT BUILDING.

D. TWO TAPE RECORDERS (REEL TO REEL) AND ONE CASSETTE RECORDER (SONY TC-66 FOR EXAMPLE): WE WERE UNABLE TO RECORD AIRPORT STATEMENTS MADE BY SECRETARY KISSINGER DURING HIS RECENT VISITS BECAUSE WE HAD NO RECORDERS. THIS, COUPLED WITH OUR PLANNED USE OF MUSIC AND RADIO TAPES, REQUIRES THAT WE HAVE SUITABLE RECORDERS.

E. WIRELESS FILE EQUIPMENT: THE OLD WIRELESS FILE EQUIPMENT FROM PRE-1967 HAS BEEN STORED IN BASEMENT OF BUILDING. OUR COMMUNICATIONS TECHNICIAN INSPECTED EQUIPMENT AND BELIEVES IT NOT USEABLE. AS OUR ACTIVITIES EXPAND IT WILL BE INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT TO HAVE THIS MEDIUM OF COMMUNICATIONS WITH USIA IN TIMELY FASHION. IN PAST MONTHS WE HAVE RELIED ON BEIRUT TO FURNISH US WIRELESS FILE BY "SERVICE". WHILE THIS HAS BEEN SATISFACTORY FOR IN-HOUSE USE, IT HAS NOT BEEN USEFUL WITH SYRIAN GOVERNMENT SINCE IT ARRIVES EARLY AFTERNOON AFTER ALL GOVERNMENT OFFICES CLOSE.

F. VTR SET AND MONITOR: SYRIAN TELEVISION HAS PURCHASED UNCLASSIFIED

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VTR EQUIPMENT AND HAS BEGUN TO RELY ON THIS MEDIUM FOR A GROWING NUMBER OF ITS TRANSMISSIONS. WE WOULD HOPE TO CAPITALIZE ON THIS BY BEING ABLE TO PROVIDE THEM WITH VIDEO TAPES ON SUBJECTS OF SPECIAL INTEREST.

G. TWO TELEVISION SETS: SYRIA CONTINUES TO IMPROVE ITS TELEVISION PRODUCTIONS AND THERE ARE AN INCREASING NUMBER OF TELEVISION SETS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.

AS WE RESPOND TO THEIR REQUESTS FOR FILMS AND AS  
WE TRY TO MONITOR REACTIONS TO KEY EVENTS, IT IS IMPORTANT  
THAT WE HAVE ACCESS TO TELEVISION. WE DO NOT AT THIS  
TIME HAVE THAT ACCESS AND MUST RELY ON VERBAL ACCOUNTS  
BROUGHT INTO THE USINT BY OUR SYRIAN EMPLOYEES.

3. WE NEED THIS EQUIPMENT AND HOPE BY PROVIDING YOU WITH THIS  
INFORMATION NOW YOU MAY BE ABLE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF YEAR END  
FUNDS. IF NOT WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR THINKING IN TERMS OF  
PROVIDING THEM AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE TIME IN THE NEXT FISCAL  
YEAR.

4. MINIMIZE CONSIDERED.  
SCOTES

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
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